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Serial No. 10/706,617

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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 20-25 are pending in the instant application. Claim 23 is amended herein to clarify the recited subject matter. No new matter is added by the amendment, which corrects a matter of form identified by the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not raise new issues and place the claims in condition for allowance, and therefore it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's assistance in the Interview conducted on or about June 12, 2007.

Claims 14 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 14 is rejected as not providing sufficient antecedent basis for the feature of "the one of the files". However, antecedent basis for this term is provided on line 6 of the claim, and therefore Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection.

The Office Action rejects to claim 23 as suggesting an optional attribute. Applicants disagree with the rejection but, in the interest of expediting prosecution, amend the claim as suggested to substitute "configured to" for the phrase "adapted to" at two places. Therefore Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,253,218 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter referred to as Aoki). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 23-25 use the concept "density" instead of the concept of "weight" in three independent claims. The concept of buoyancy is discussed in the specification in regards to a heavy object sinking and a light object floating (Specification; figures 1-4). This feature of buoyancy is dependent on the density of the object relative to the density of the fluid. For

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example, referring to figure 1, the first sphere 102, which has the highest density (e.g., the data size is largest) is suspended in the water near the water bottom 114. The third sphere 106, which has the lowest density (e.g. the data size is smallest), is floating near the water surface 112. The density of the sphere is set in accordance with the attribute value (e.g., the data size) so that whether the sphere has a high density or a low density is represented on a display.

The Office Action asserts that Aoki discloses the concept of density recited in the claims, citing to several references to density and thickness in the specification, and to several figures showing a 3-dimensional display representation. However, the reference to density in Aoki refers to a density of data. This feature of Aoki is described as "the number of figures in a unit length along the Z axis direction is counted, and if the counted number is equal to or greater than a predetermined value, the sub-space is judged as being dense." (Aoki; col. 20, lines 58-62). Aoki apparently represents a data density visually, but does not represent this attribute, or any other attribute, using a *concept* of density (or, as in claim 1, weight), namely an object being dense or not dense (or, as in claim 1, heavy or light), as claimed and as discussed in the specification. There is no indication that there is any position determining unit which sets, based on a result obtained from said comparison processing unit, a relative display position of a predetermined object representing the at least one file, the relative display position representing the value of the attribute in terms of the density in comparison with the reference value. None of the figures cited in Aoki disclose a representation that *visually represents a display position based on a concept of density applied to the attribute*, and therefore, for at least these reasons claims 23-25 are allowable.

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Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/075322 to Rosenzweig et al. (hereinafter referred to as Rosenzweig). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is directed to a file processing apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, an attribute input unit which acquires a value of an attribute for at least one file *in order to represent a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file by using a concept of weight* and a comparison processing unit which compares the value of an attribute with a reference value. The file processing apparatus of claim 1 also includes a position determining unit which sets, based on a result obtained from said comparison processing unit, *a relative display position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight*, and a display processing unit which *visually represents the value of the attribute in terms of whether the weight is heavy or light*, by displaying the object at the display position on a screen set by said position determining unit.

As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that Aoki does not disclose or suggest the concept of density as recited in the claims. Likewise, there is no indication that there is *any display representation* of an attribute *based on the concept of weight*. None of the figures disclose a representation that visually represents a display position based on a concept of weight applied to the attribute. There is no indication of a relative display position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight. The Examiner cites Aoki as disclosing this feature (Office Action; page 7, lines 3-6). However, the cited sections of Aoki apparently discuss a data model positioning system that places data partitions based on a date of creation, and not based on a symbolic weight. Aoki displays a file as shown in figure 2, where the X axis direction represents the categories and the Z axis direction (depth direction) represents the dates.

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Computing the Z coordinate in accordance with the date value as in Aoki does not represent the use of "a concept of weight". Furthermore, the Office Action admits that Aoki does not expressly teach the concept of weight (Office Action; page 7, lines 10-11).

The addition of Rosenzweig fails to cure the critical deficiency discussed above as regards the feature of a relative display position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight. In Rosenzweig, the display position is apparently *based on a position in a timeline*, and does not relate to weight nor is the display position related to the attribute as compared to a reference value. The Office Action asserts that Rosenzweig discloses this feature by a display representation that is adjusted in *size or positioned along a line* based on an attribute. The Office Action states that a bigger icon symbolizes a heavier icon, and that size is equivalent to weight. However, these conclusions are false, and the example of a hot air balloon provides a ready counter-example. Thus, neither references discloses or suggests a position determining unit as recited in claim 1 which sets a relative display position of a predetermined object, based on a comparison of the value of an attribute with a reference value, *the relative display position of the predetermined object representing symbolically the weight*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection based on Aoki and Rosenzweig be withdrawn.

Furthermore Applicants respectfully request a response to the argument presented in the previous amendment asserting that the motivation to combine the references is improper. The Office Action asserts that the combination of Aoki and Rosenzweig is motivated to determine a display pattern, and to allow the user to easily manage or retrieve information (Office Action; page 7, bottom, to page 8, top). The Examiner appears to use purported advantages of the individual references as a motivation to combine, without explaining why a person of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated by one reference to suggest a combination with another

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reference. Additionally, it does not appear that Rosenzweig and Aoki are compatible, since Rosenzweig apparently discloses the objects in a fixed position on a timeline, whereas Aoki displays the objects moveable in an array. Applicants therefore submit that the combination is improper and the rejection should be withdrawn for at least this additional reason.

Independent claims 10, 12, 14, and 20-22 are also directed to representing the attribute by using "a concept of weight". Therefore, for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable, claims 10, 12, 14, and 20-22 are also allowable.

Claims 3-6 and 9 depend from claim 1; claim 13 depends from claim 12; and claim 16 depends from claim 10, and therefore each of these claims is allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims are allowable.

Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Aoki and Rosenzweig, and further in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0175896 to Vaananen et al. (hereinafter referred to as Vaananen). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The addition of Vaananen fails to cure the critical deficiency discussed above as regards Aoki applied against the independent claims. Therefore, claims 2 and 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims, claims 1 and 10, are allowable.

Claims 7, 8, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Aoki and Rosenzweig, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,340,957 to Adler et al. (hereinafter referred to as Adler). Applicants respectfully traverse.

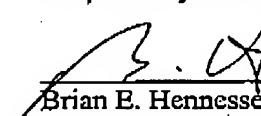
The addition of Adler fails to cure the critical deficiency discussed above as regards Aoki applied against the independent claims. Therefore, claims 7, 8, and 15 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims, claims 1 and 14, are allowable.

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In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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